IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 2, in lines 1-7, as follows.

~~BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION~~

RELATED APPLICATION:

This application is a continuation of Application No. 10/772,702, filed February 5, 2004, now abandoned. The present application claims all available benefit, under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), of U.S. provisional patent application Serial No. 60/651,461 ~~10/606,007~~, filed June 25, 2003, and U.S. patent application No. 10/738,236, filed December 17, 2003. By this reference, the full disclosures of U.S. provisional patent application Serial No. 60/651,461 ~~10/606,007~~ and U.S. patent application No. 10/738,236 are incorporated herein as though now set forth in its entirety.

Please amend page 7, in lines 5-23, as follows.

As shown in Figures 1-5, a fowl retention system 100 includes a protective structure 400, a station 600, and a strip 500. The protective structure 400 is a structure used to provide the fowl with shelter from the elements, as well as predators. The protective structure 400 includes uprights 110, a ~~floor~~ roof assembly 120, horizontal supports 130, radial supports 140, circumferential supports 150, a skirt 151, and at least one cover 160. The protective structure 400 includes four uprights 110. The uprights 110 are metallic extrusions having a first end 111 and a second end 112. The uprights 110 include a lateral support 113 near the first end 111. The lateral support 113 may be permanently attached to the upright 110 through any suitable process, for example welding.

The ~~floor~~ roof assembly 120 includes a ~~floor~~ roof structure 121 and a ~~floor~~ roof 125. The ~~floor~~ roof structure 121 may be of any suitable material and shape to provide support to the ~~floor~~ roof 125. In this preferred embodiment, the ~~floor~~ roof structure 121 is of a wood construction.

The ~~floor~~ roof structure 121 is substantially square with an upper surface 123 and a lower surface 124. The ~~floor~~ roof structure 121 is substantially rigid, and able to span its length with minimal deflection. The ~~floor~~ roof 125 is an impervious sheet having a first side 126 and a second side 127. The ~~floor~~ roof 125 is slightly larger than the ~~floor~~ roof structure 121 in one dimension. The ~~floor~~ roof 125, in this preferred embodiment, is of a metallic construction, however, any suitable material may be used, for example sheet metal. One of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the ~~floor~~ roof assembly 120 may be constructed as a single unit, thereby eliminating a component.

Please amend page 9, in lines 3-22, as follows.

Upon assembly, the first ends 111 of the four uprights 110 are embedded at a predetermined spacing into the ground to a depth of approximately one foot. The spacing substantially mirrors the width of the ~~floor~~ roof assembly 120, such that each upright 110 is approximately four feet from the nearest upright. Once embedded, the ~~floor~~ roof structure 121 is suspended between the uprights 110 such that a lowest point of the ~~floor~~ roof assembly 120 is approximately fourteen inches from the ground. The ~~floor~~ roof structure 121 may be secured to the uprights 110 using any suitable means, for example, tying with a wire 128. After securing the ~~floor~~ roof structure 121, the ~~floor~~ roof 125 may be placed on top of the ~~floor~~ roof structure 121 such that the ~~floor~~ roof 125 completely covers the ~~floor~~ roof structure 121. The ~~floor~~ roof 125 may be secured using any suitable means, for example, fastening with screws (not shown).

After installing the ~~floor~~ roof assembly 120, the horizontal supports 130 may be attached to each pair of the uprights 110 surrounding the ~~flooring~~ roof assembly 120. The horizontal supports 130 in this preferred embodiment are secured to the second ends 112 of the uprights 110 at a distance of approximately forty-one inches from a ground level. The horizontal supports 130

may also be secured to the uprights 110 using any suitable means, such as tying with the wire 128.

The skirt 151 is a natural vegetative barrier located between the ~~floor~~ roof structure 121 and the ground. The skirt 151 is placed on three sides of the ~~floor~~ roof structure 121 to partially enclose the area located beneath the ~~floor~~ roof structure121. The skirt 151 is typically constructed of palm leaves or other plant having thorns.

Please amend page 11, in lines 4-9, as follows.

In use, the fowl are able to enter and exit the protective structure 400 as desired. The fowl utilize the area below the ~~floor~~ roof structure 121 for protection from the elements, predators and extreme weather conditions. Large predators may not disturb the structure to a great degree due to the steel framing. Smaller animals may take up residence in the protective structure 400. The use of the protective structure substantially decreases the number of fowl that are lost to predator, namely birds of prey. Operators may clean the protective structure 400 from the door 105.